

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2015

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President Gary Hicks presiding, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the PUD Office at 1500 Scenic Way.

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ROLL CALL: PRESENT Commissioners: Gary Hicks, Don Nuxoll and Judy Ridge.

PUD Staff: General Manager Tim Simpson, Treasurer Bob Sischo and Counsel Scott Broyles.

Members of the public were present.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the April 28, 2015 Regular Meeting and payment of the Transaction Vouchers covering vouchers #1827 and #1828 and vouchers #3489EFT through #3506EFT in the amount of \$35,668.55 and Blanket Transaction Voucher Approval Document covering vouchers #34416 through #34481, and Electronic Transaction Vouchers #15050401, #15050402, #15050501, #15050502, #15051801 and #15052201 in the amount of \$330,268.69. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Port of Wilma Large Onsite Sewage System

The manager reported that the engineering firm, Keller and Associates, have concluded their work on the Port of Wilma sewer flow study and will be providing a report of their findings on Friday, May15th at a meeting between the Port of Whitman County and the PUD. The manager stated that if the flow study and sewer flow is found acceptable, the Port will award the bid for construction of the Large Onsite Septic System (LOSS) to the lowest responsible bidder Rraco of Spokane, Washington. Work on the LOSS system will likely commence later this month. The manager reported that equipment, pumps and accessories, for the upgrade of the sewer lift stations in the Port is scheduled to arrive the first week in June. Once the equipment arrives the PUD will coordinate with the Port to schedule work on the upgrade of the sewer lift stations. In addition, as a part of flow reduction, PUD staff will be raising three sewer manholes in order to prevent stormwater runoff into the sewer system. Bennett Lumber will be paying for the material, labor and equipment involved in the sewer manhole work.

NEW BUSINESS

Watershed Planning Director Employment Extension

The manager reported that at the regular meeting held on December 28, 2014 the Board of Commissioners decided that the PUDs tenure as the fiscal agent for the WRIA 35-Middle Snake Watershed Planning Unit would conclude on or before June 30, 2015. This decision came as a result of the Department of Ecology's recommendation to the Planning Unit to not pursue the setting of instream flows in the basin due to issues with exempt wells. This recommendation effectively ended the watershed planning process.

The Board stated that with the conclusion of the PUDs tenure as the fiscal agent for Watershed Planning, the Employment Agreement with Watershed Planning Director Brad Johnson would also terminate. At the time of the decision, the Board stated that they would like to see Brad transition to another fiscal agent before June 30, 2015, if he desires to do so, in order to continue his work on watershed projects.

The manager stated that since notifying Brad of the Board's decision he and other planning unit members have been working diligently to find a place for Brad to land that will include his continued work in the WRIA 35 watershed. Several scenarios and opportunities presented themselves but the best option came to fruition on Tuesday, April 28th. At their meeting on that date, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB), whose fiscal agent and is the Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), directed their staff to work with the College to create a position for Brad as an employee of WWCC under the umbrella and structure of the SRSRB.

The direction by the SRSRB came with a request that the PUD extend Brad's contract until the end of September 2015 in order to complete the projects and provide funding for his employment until the SRSRB can bring him on as full-time employee. The manager stated that there are two grants that we are currently working with that do not end until after June 30, 2015. One ends in June 30, 2016 and the other has an end date of January 31, 2016. The latter can be completed by the end of September; the other one will either need to be handed off to another agency or it ends with Brad's termination of employment with the PUD.

After discussion of the issue and recent developments regarding Brad completing implementation projects the Commission stated that they stood by their December 23, 2014 decision.

MOTION by Commissioner Judy Ridge and seconded by Commissioner Don Nuxoll to ratify the Board of Commissioners December 23, 2014 decision to end work as the WRIA 35-Middle Snake Watershed Planning Unit fiscal agent and terminate Brad Johnson's Employment Agreement effective on or before June 30, 2015. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Heights Reservoirs Interior Recoating Project – the manager reported that the work by our contractor on the Clarkston Heights Reservoirs Interior Recoating project has concluded and the 2 million gallon reservoir has been filled and is awaiting a water quality sample to be taken. Once a sample is found satisfactory the reservoir will be put back in service and the project will be complete. The manager stated that the reservoir should be back on line by the end of the week.

Allen Drive Water Main Project – The manager reported that the installation of a new 8-inch water main on Allen Drive which included the relocating and replacing of 15 customer service lines was completed last week. The new water main eliminated two dead ends, allowed the moving of long water service lines from Valleyview Drive to Allen Drive and provided a fire hydrant and fire flow protection for the block.

City of Asotin Water Line Repair – The manager reported that operations staff repaired the City of Asotin water main located near Wilson Road and the Riverpointe Addition. The 8-inch water main separated on Sunday, April 12th at a mechanical joint fitting due to earth movement under the main. The new main was restrained with pipe restraints and concrete blocking that will prevent an incident like this occurring again.

Valve Maintenance Trailer Training – The manager reported that operation staff received training last week on the new computer operated valve maintenance trailer. The trailer also has a vector system that has already proved useful on several service and mainline jobs. Work orders can now be generated through the InfoMap system and valve turns, valve condition and other valve information can be stored in our GIS Mapping System.

Lewis Clark Valley GIS Aerial Imagery – The manager reported that a Geographic Information System (GIS) aerial imagery flight was conducted in late April. Governmental agencies in the Lewis Clark Valley combined resources to pay for the flight and GIS imagery. Nez Perce County is the lead agency for the project, The PUDs cost for the \$29,285 project will be approximately \$4,475. The imagery will have better resolution because the imagery was reduced from 6-inch contours to 3-inch.

Port of Wilma Well No. 2 Motor Starter – The manager reported the motor starter at the recently repaired Well No. 2 in the Port of Wilma failed and will need to be replaced. The cost of the replacement is expected to be in the \$6,000 to \$8,000 range.

City of Clarkston Franchise – the manager reported that at their meeting last night the Clarkston City Council, by ordinance, approved a 30-year renewal of the franchise with the PUD. The franchise allows the PUD to construct, operate and maintain a water distribution system in and over and along city streets, alleys and other city property. The City discovered that the original franchise dated May 1987 expired 3 years ago in May 2012. Acceptance of the franchise by resolution will be presented at the next meeting.

Water Production – The manager reported that due to dryer than usual conditions water production in April exceeded April 2014 by 35 million gallons. In addition, water production in May this year through Monday was at 83 million gallons which is nearly double or 40 million gallons ahead of production in May 2014.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge attended Public Power Council meetings in Portland, Oregon, May 6-7. She stated that the primary discussion was regarding the Bonneville Power Administration and their proposed infrastructure projects and rates increases. PPC presented a panel of retiring executives who provided their perspective on the electric industry and valuable lessons they learned in their career.

Commissioner Ridge discussed information she had obtained regarding elected officials joining the Washington State Public Employee Retirement System. After discussion of the information she received Commissioners directed the manager to look into enrolling the Commissioners in the PERS program and report back to them.

Commissioner Ridge will be attending the Northwest Public Power Association Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, May 18-22.

Commissioner Nuxoll attended a Watershed Planning Unit meeting Thursday, April 30th at the PUD office. He stated that Ecology reviewed the new stream flow data and stated that the new flow numbers proved that the landowners and Planning Unit was right regarding what the instream flow should be when the Watershed Plan was adopted 5 years ago. The Plan will be amended with the new flows and adopted by the counties.

Commissioner Nuxoll will be attending a Watershed Planning Unit meeting Thursday, May 21st at the PUD office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.